

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 378

Designation, under the Plenary Powers, of a type species in harmony with current usage for the genus *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda), a genus based upon a misidentified type species.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 378

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(*Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent
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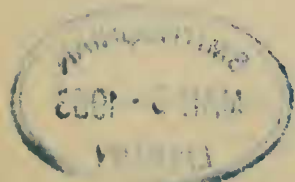
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Mr. P. C. SYLVESTER-BRADLEY (*Sheffield University, Sheffield, England*) (12th
August 1953)

Dr. L. B. HOLTHUIS (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Nether-
lands*) (12th August 1953)



OPINION 378

DESIGNATION UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH CURRENT USAGE FOR THE GENUS "PONTONIA" LATREILLE, 1829 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER DECAPODA), A GENUS BASED UPON A MISIDENTIFIED TYPE SPECIES

RULING :—(1) It is hereby ruled that the genus *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829, is a genus based upon a misidentified type species and accordingly under the Plenary Powers :—(a) all designations and selections of type species for the foregoing genus made prior to the present Ruling are hereby set aside, and (b) the nominal species *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821, is hereby designated to be the type species thereof.

(2) The under-mentioned generic name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 904 :—*Pontonia* Latreille, 1829 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1) (b) above : *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821).

(3) The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 525 :—*pinnophylax* Otto, 1821, as published in the combination *Palaemon pinnophylax* (specific name of type species of *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829).

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

On 21st September 1951, Dr. L. B. Holthuis (*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*) submitted the following application to the Commission for the use of the Plenary

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Powers to designate a species in harmony with current usage to be the type species of the genus *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829, on the ground that that genus had been founded upon a misidentified type species :—

Proposed use of the Plenary Powers to designate “*Palaemon pinnophylax*” Otto, 1821, as the type species of the genus “*Pontonia*” Latreille, 1829 (Class Crustacea, Order Decapoda)

By L. B. HOLTHUIS

(*Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, Leiden, The Netherlands*)

Latreille, 1829 (Cuvier's *Règne anim.* (ed. 2) 4 : 96), in the original description of the genus *Pontonia* mentioned only one species : “*Alpheus thyrenus* [sic], Risso, Crust., ii, 2 ; *Astacus thyrenus* [sic] petag., v, 5 ; Desmar., *ibid.*, pag. 229”. Like Latreille, Risso, 1816 (*Hist. nat. Crust. Nice* : 94, pl. 2, fig. 2) identified his *Alpheus tyrhenus* with *Astacus tyrrhenus* Petagna, 1792 (*Institut. entom.* : 418, pl. 5, fig. 3). The latter species thus obviously is the type species of the genus *Pontonia* Latreille.

2. Up till 1947 the name *Astacus tyrrhenus* Petagna was generally considered to belong to the species described and figured by Risso, 1816, under the name *Alpheus tyrhenus* [sic]. This species, which is a commensal shrimp belonging to the tribe Caridea, accordingly obtained the specific name *Pontonia tyrrhena* (Petagna). The generic name *Pontonia* always has been given to this genus of commensal caridean shrimps ; the genus *Pontonia* has even become the typical genus of the subfamily PONTONIINAE (family PALAEMONIDAE). There has never been any doubt as to the systematic position of the genus *Pontonia*, and the generic name *Pontonia* has been used by practically all carcinologists to indicate that genus.

3. In 1947 the present author (Holthuis, 1947, *Zool. Meded.* 27 : 319, 320) showed that the excellent figure which accompanies the short original description of *Astacus tyrrhenus* Petagna leaves not the least doubt that this species is entirely different from that described and figured by Risso as *Alpheus tyrhenus* [sic]. *Astacus tyrrhenus* proves to be identical with the species best known under the name *Callinassa laticauda* Otto, 1821, which does not even belong to the Caridea, but forms part of the tribe Thalassinidea. The latter species thus has to bear the specific name *Callinassa tyrrhena* (Petagna). The first valid specific name for the species described and figured by Risso, 1816, as *Alpheus tyrhenus* proves to be *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821 (*Conspectus Anim. marit. non edit.* : 12).

4. Latreille, 1829, placed his new genus *Pontonia* in his "cinquième section, celle des Salicoques (*Carides*)" (: 91), with the other caridean genera like *Hymenocera*, *Gnathophyllum*, *Alpheus*, and *Hippolyte*, while he recognised as a distinct genus the genus *Callianassa*, which was placed by him in his "quatrième section, celle des Homards (*Astacini*, Latr.)" (: 82). It thus is obvious that Latreille, 1829, erected his new genus for *Alpheus tyrrenus* Risso, 1816, a species which is identical with *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821, but which was incorrectly identified both by Risso, 1816, and Latreille, 1829, with *Astacus tyrrenus* Petagna, 1792. In this original sense the generic name *Pontonia* Latreille always has been used since 1829.

5. The fact that Latreille misidentified *Alpheus tyrrenus* Risso with *Astacus tyrrenus* Petagna has, however, no bearing on the determination of the type species of the genus *Pontonia*. According to the revised *Règles*, "the original author of a generic name [is] to be assumed to have identified correctly the nominal species referred by him to the genus so named" (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 (4/6) : 158). Under the *Règles* the species *Astacus tyrrenus* Petagna, 1792, is thus undoubtedly the type species of the genus *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829. Consequently the generic name *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829, becomes a synonym of the generic name *Callianassa* Leach, 1814, and is not available for the genus of commensal caridean shrimps for which it always has been employed, and for which it certainly was intended by its original author. The strict application of the *Règles* in this way would cause an undesirable confusion since not only would it make it necessary to substitute a new name for the well-known generic name *Pontonia*, as accepted by most authors, but also it would involve changing the name of the subfamily PONTONINAE. In order to prevent this unnecessary confusion I recommend that the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature should :—

(1) use its Plenary Powers :—

(a) to set aside all designations or selections of type species for the genus *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829, made prior to the proposed decision ; and having done so

(b) to designate *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821, to be the type species of the foregoing genus ;

(2) place on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* the generic name *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829 (type species, as proposed in (1) above to be designated under the Plenary Powers : *Palaemon pinnophylax* Otto, 1821) (gender of generic name : feminine) ;

(3) place on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* the trivial name *pinnophylax* Otto, 1821, as published in the combination *Palaemon pinnophylax* (trivial name of type species of *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829).

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : Upon the receipt of Dr. Holthuis's application, the question of the use of the Plenary Powers for the purpose of varying the type species of the genus *Pontonia* Latreille was allotted the Registered Number Z.N.(S.)619.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 30th January 1952 and was published on 23rd July of that year in Part 9 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Holthuis, 1952, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 6 : 271—272).

4. Issue of Public Notices : Under the revised procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948 (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 51—56), Public Notice of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its Plenary Powers in the present case was given on 23rd July 1952 (a) in Part 9 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (the Part in which Dr. Holthuis's application was published) and (b) to the other prescribed serial publications. In addition, Public Notice was given also to certain general zoological serial publications.

5. Comments received : The issue of the Public Notices specified in paragraph 4 above elicited comments from the following specialists :—(1) Dr. K. S. Misra (*Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta*) ; (2) Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (*Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona, Spain*). The communications so received are reproduced in the immediately following paragraphs.

6. Objection received from Dr. K. S. Misra (*Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta*) : On 22nd January 1953, Dr. K. S. Misra (*Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta*) addressed a letter to the Commission, commenting upon four applications. The present was the third of the applications concerned and as regards it Dr. Misra wrote as follows :—

The genus *Pontonia* Latreille will have to be rejected and a new generic name created. Popularity of the generic name should not be the chief criterion for retaining invalid names, like *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829.

7. Support received from Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona, Spain) : On 25th February 1953, Dr. Ricardo Zariquiey (*Enfermedades de la Infancia, Barcelona, Spain*) addressed a letter to the Commission indicating his support for this and for certain other applications submitted by Dr. L. B. Holthuis. The following is an extract from the letter so received :—

He recibido las Commission's References . . . Z.N.(S.) 619 . . . propuestas por el Dr. L. B. Holthuis, estando en todo conforme con las proposiciones del citado Doctor.

8. Note prepared by the Secretary for consideration by the Commission in connection with the Voting Paper prepared in this case : On 16th March 1954, Mr. Hemming prepared the following note on the scope of the problem involved in the present case :—

Nature of the problem : This is a case of a genus (*Pontonia*) established with a misidentified type species. The species cited by the author (Latreille) was *Astacus tyrrhenus* Petagna, 1792, a name associated by Latreille and later authors up to 1947 with a commensal shrimp of the group Caridea to which Otto in 1821 gave the name *Palaemon pinnophylax*. In 1947 Holthuis showed that the true *A. tyrrhenus* Petagna was an entirely different species belonging not to the Caridea but to the Thalassinidea. The applicant states that *Pontonia* has always been used in the sense of Latreille, that it forms the basis of a subfamily name, and that the strict application of the normal rule would lead to "undesirable confusion". This case falls therefore to be dealt with under the special procedure devised by the Paris Congress (*Bull.* 4 : 159). Under that procedure in a case of this kind the function of the Commission is limited to deciding whether the genus was based on a misidentified type species ; if so satisfied, it is bound to use its Plenary Powers to designate, as the type species, the species intended by the original author, except where this would disturb nomenclatorial practice.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

9. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(54) 40 : On 24th March 1954, a Voting Paper (V.P.(54)40) was issued in which, in the light of the note reproduced in paragraph 8 above, the Members of the

Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, "the proposal that the Commission should express itself as satisfied that the genus *Pontonia* Latreille, 1829, was based upon a misidentified type species and therefore that approval should be given to the proposals set out at the end of the paper on page 272 of volume 6 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* [i.e. in paragraph 5 of the application reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

10. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 24th June 1954.

11. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)40 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(54)40 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following nineteen (19) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Riley ; Holthuis ; Lemche ; Hering ; Vokes ; Bonnet ;
Dymond ; Esaki ; Boschma ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Bradley
(J.C.) ; do Amaral ; Hankó ; Pearson ; Stoll ; Hemming ;
Cabrera ; Mertens ; Jaczewski ;

(b) *Negative Votes :*

None ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned :*

None.

12. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 26th June 1954, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper

V.P.(54)40, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 11 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

13. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" : On 28th March 1955, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(54)40.

14. Original References : The following are the original references for the names placed on *Official Lists* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

pinnophylax, *Palaemon*, Otto, 1821, *Consp. Anim. marit. non edit.* :
12

Pontonia Latreille, 1829, in Cuvier, *Règne anim.* (ed. 2) 4 : 96

15. The application dealt with in the present *Opinion* was published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* prior to the establishment of the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology* by the Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953. It has been ascertained that an addition, or additions, to the foregoing *Official List* and/or to the corresponding *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology* will need to be made in order to complete the action, which, under the General Directives given to the International Commission by the International Congress of Zoology, is required to be taken in the present case. This question is now being examined on a separate File to which the Registered Number Z.N.(G.) 125 has been allotted.

16. At the time of the submission of the present application the name applicable to the second portion of a binomen was "trivial name". This was altered to "specific name" by the

Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology, Copenhagen, 1953, which at the same time made corresponding changes in the titles of the *Official List* and *Official Index* of names of this category. These changes in terminology have been incorporated in the Ruling given in the present *Opinion*.

17. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

18. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Three Hundred and Seventy-Eight (378) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Twenty-Eighth day of March, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Five.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING